

Alameda County Fire Department in 1993. With Bill at the helm, the fire department took on new responsibilities and doubled in size. He added new divisions, too, including a hazardous response team and a water rescue program.

When Bill tragically passed away, he was still working to protect his community, as executive director of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority. It is this organization that provides for the interoperable communications for dozens of agencies within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

We should all be thankful for Bill's many years of dedicated service to the East Bay. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, children, family, and friends.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday is National Adoption Day, a day in which people and organizations from across the Nation come together to bring awareness to a truly admirable cause, and one that has become very close to my heart.

Last year, our family was blessed to adopt twin girls, Ivy and Lynnette. These girls have become one of life's greatest blessings to my family, and Christie and I truly cannot imagine life without them.

People come to us all the time and say, You are going to be such a blessing to these girls; and I can tell you, these girls are a bigger blessing to Christie and me than I can ever even say.

Right now, our country is needing adoptive families. There are nearly 400,000 children in the United States without permanent homes, and the 30,000 a year that will age out of foster care programs will face unlimited hurdles that will limit their success.

So this Adoption Day, I challenge Members of this body to do their part, promoting awareness of adoption throughout their districts. If we want to create a brighter future for our Nation, ensuring that every child has a safe home and a loving family is a great place to start. I believe this is a cause we can all agree is worth the effort.

STOP MILITARIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is not the kind of vehicle that you want to see cruising the streets of your neighborhood. This is not a police cruiser. And while walking the streets of your neighborhood, you don't want to see these kinds of military-garbed

officers patrolling your neighborhood on routine patrol.

When you militarize your police department, you get a militarized response to peaceful and lawful citizen protests.

If you don't want to see the continued militarization of your police departments through the 1033 National Defense Authorization Act program, then support my legislation, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act, H.R. 5478.

TROOP REWARDS

(Mr. JOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional organization from the Tampa Bay area.

Troop Rewards is a group that helps our veterans heal from the psychological stresses of war and reunites them with their families in a safe and relaxing environment.

In 2009, the founder of Troop Rewards, Tom Burkett, received a phone call from a private first class overseas inquiring about the cost of returning home to Clearwater Beach and having a short rest with his family.

Tom replied, How can you be charged anything when you have spent the last year risking your life for our country?

This donation was the first of many for Mr. Burkett, and it inspired him to start the nonprofit Troop Rewards organization. Since then, Troop Rewards has helped more than 100 military members readjust to life after deployment by reintegrating them with their family in a moment of rest and relaxation through the foundation's recovery vacations. With destinations ranging from Maine to Florida, returning military troops have the opportunity to spend time with their family—a reward they have rightfully earned.

Mr. Speaker, Troop Rewards reflects one of our highest priorities as a nation: to repay a debt owed to those who have sacrificed so much for us.

I rise today to commend Troop Rewards and their many partners in this effort, including the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater, Florida, and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

May God bless these fine organizations, and may God bless our troops.

EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of November as Epilepsy Awareness Month. Each year, more than 200,000 people are diagnosed with epilepsy, yet research for this condition remains vastly, vastly underfunded, impeding scientific advancements for better treatments and a potential cure.

We are extremely lucky to have organizations like the Epilepsy Foundation and the Matty Fund active in Rhode Island. They help raise awareness, provide support, promote safety, and improve the quality of life for children and families living with epilepsy.

The Matty Fund is the product of two loving and dedicated parents who, sadly, lost their 5-year-old son, Matty Siravo, on Mother's Day 2003 following a grand mal seizure. The Siravos honor their son's memory every day by continuing to raise awareness about epilepsy.

I am so proud to represent such an inspiring family, and I hope everyone will take a moment to reflect on what they can do to support epilepsy awareness, not just in November, but every day of the year.

REMEMBERING NIEVES OLEMBERG

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to recognize and remember a wonderful woman from south Florida who was taken from this Earth too soon, Nieves Olemborg.

Nieves passed away last month at age 79 following a tragic car accident. She is survived by her loving husband, Isaac; their children, Roberto, Lily, Hannah, and Lisette; and grandchildren, Rachel, Aaron, Jacqueline, David, Daniel, and Samuel.

Beyond her noted devotion to her family, Nieves was a pillar of the south Florida Jewish community. She was a founding member and president of Hadassah's Inter-American Chapter, and was also actively involved with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Hebrew Academy.

Nieves will be greatly missed, but her generosity and kindhearted soul will forever leave an enduring imprint on our community. May her memory be a blessing.

NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW, YOUTH AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program on its 40th anniversary.

In 1974, the LYC was established to promote citizenship and law-related education in schools throughout New York State, imparting knowledge to 5,000 students per year for more than four decades.

Under the current leadership and the tireless efforts of Director Eileen Gerrish, the LYC engages students in one of the primary statewide education programs of its kind.